GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:230
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
HARASSMENT TO INDIAN WORKERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of unskilled and semi-skilled Indian workers are working overseas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether overseas Indian workers are facing numerous problems regarding non-payment/ delayed payment of wages, cruelty, sexual harassment etc.; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to safeguard the interests of Indian workers abroad?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement of annual outflow of workers based on the ECR clearance granted by the offices of the POEs from India during the years 2005 to 2007 is given in Annexure.

(c) Complaints are received regarding non-payment/delayed payment of wages and other forms of harassment.

(d) The following measures are taken to safeguard the interests of Indian workers abroad:

(i) In case involvement of Registered Recruiting Agents is found, action is taken under Emigration Act like suspension/cancellation of license and forfeiture of Bank Guarantee etc.

(ii) If Unregistered Agents are involved, cases are referred to State Police Authorities for legal action.

(iii) In case of Foreign Employers' involvement, they are black listed and placed under prior approval category.

(iv) The age restriction of 30 years has been made mandatory in respect of all women emigrants with ECR passports irrespective of the nature / category of employment.

(v) The attestation of documents by the concerned Indian Missions has been made mandatory in respect of vulnerable categories i.e. all women emigrants and unskilled labours for all Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries.

(vi) It has been decided that every foreign employer directly recruiting an Indian emigrant must deposit a security of US $ 2500 in the form of Bank Guarantee with the Indian Mission.

(vii) It has been decided that minimum wage for Household Service Workers(HSW) will be fixed by the Indian diplomatic Missions in the ECR countries in the range of US $ 300-350 with due regard to the market wage.

(viii) A massive publicity campaign has been launched to create awareness amongst the emigrant workers.

(ix) Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been opened to provide a 12x7 helpline service for emigrant workers.

(x) In order to ensure protection & welfare of workers, this Ministry has also signed bilateral agreement with major labour receiving countries. Such MOUs have been signed with UAE, Qatar & Kuwait. MOUs have been finalized with Malaysia and Oman.

ANNEXURE CONTAINING STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 230 FOR ANSWER ON 27.02.2008

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL LABOUR OUTFLOWS FROM INDIA BY DESTINATION FOR THE YEARS 2005 TO 2007

S. N.	Country	2005	2006	2007
1.	U.A.E.	194412	254774	312695
2.	Saudi Arabia	99879	134059	195437
3.	Malaysia	71041	36500	30916
4.	Qatar	50222	76324	88483
5.	Oman	40931	67992	95462
6.	Kuwait	39124	47449	48467
7.	Bahrain	30060	37688	29966
8.	Maldives	3423	4671	ECNR
9.	Mauritius	1965	1795	ECNR
10.	Jordan	1851	1485	1254
11.	Libya	3223		
Others		15945	14175	3550
TOTAL		548853	676912	809453